

Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting

4th May 2023 in St. Peter's Parish Centre

Present: Jonathan Holden, Peter & Margaret Dimambro, Jackie Rabone, Roger & Anne Elson. Susan Chan, Liz Mottram, Gill Ayers-Hunt

Apologies: Mary Holden, Paul Hayden, Mary Rouse

Jonathan chaired the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer and a reading from Mt. 10: 18-20.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of 30th March meeting

Under Matters arising:

Questions were asked about the proposed visit of Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, the episcopal vicar: what would be a good day for him to visit? Will he talk and listen? JH believes the visit is in connection with the Synodal programme and diocesan vision.

PD said he is keeping Paul Northam of the Office for Mission informed of our progress.

JH suggested both Canon Fitzpatrick and Paul Northam should visit as soon as possible after this phase is complete –possibly in June.

2. Discernment meetings update

- a) JH thanked Mary Rouse for taking over as church rep for Our Lady's; Jackie for collecting the meeting lists for St. Joseph's, and Liz for doing the printing for Our Lady's. It had been a mammoth task to prepare the lists for publication on 23rd April.
- b) **Church reps** should check regularly for additions to the lists and inform the topic group leaders. So far very few people have signed up and only a few have emailed the TGL directly.
- c) **Topic Group Leaders** have all contacted those who originally signed up. JH suggested contacting individuals by email or phone, encouraging them to sign up. It was recognised that people may just turn up for meetings.
- d) TGLs may need instructions or key codes for accessing meeting centres: JH has the necessary information for St. Peter's..
They will need to print facilitator feedback forms and other information and provide refreshments. A helper will be needed to welcome people and take names.
- e) **Facilitators:** PD has held three training sessions, including one by Zoom, totalling 14 participants, with one more meeting to come. (*Since the WT meeting, the final meeting has been held with a further three people agreeing to be facilitators*) Some have offered to facilitate at two meetings, or more. Two facilitators will be allocated for each meeting, with one held in reserve where possible. Most prefer to complete the feedback form after the meeting, but must return them to the TGL within a week.
If facilitators are asked directly to give their views on a question for discernment, JH suggested they should politely explain that it is not part of their role as facilitators.
- f) Parishioners need to be encouraged to sign up. It was agreed that this should be done by one of the WT team at the end of each coming weekend Mass. **JH to send out some bullet points.** JR offered to cover St. Joseph's; PD to ask Paul Milton for 5pm Mass; JH to approach Sarah Vaughan for 11am Mass.

3. Any other business

a) **Feedback and reporting process**

The TGL should collate and summarise, separately for each question, the responses on facilitator feedback forms from all tables and meetings within that topic group and submit those summaries as early as possible to the report writing subgroup of the W T team. Issues as to the best way to do this can be raised at the next WT meeting.

It was suggested that three writers and an editor would be needed to summarise all the feedback for the final report.

b) The question was asked whether these meetings will lead to action and all agreed that where possible there should be some immediate actions. One of the major objectives is to foster collaboration between clergy and laity, so it would be good if the clergy could attend some of the meetings due to take place.

Asked whether these meetings could lead to further discernment meetings, developing action plans in one or two specific areas, JH said that would be very good after the report on this phase had been published, if TGLs felt able to do so. He also said it was important for facilitators to record issues arising that the infrastructure group might address later this year.

c) It was suggested that there could be one or two extra meetings in early June, either in-person or by Zoom, to cater for people who are unable to attend the scheduled meetings.

The next WT team meeting will be Wednesday 31st May, 7.30pm, at St. Peter's. **Peter to book the Davenport Room.**

The meeting closed with a prayer.